(ii) Limit for advances to private retail traders (other than those dealing in essential commodities) (fair price shops and consumer co-operative stores) under the priority sector was enhanced from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 2,00,000/- in March, 1994.

(iii) The definition of 'Small Business' under priority sector has been revised in March, 1994 to include these units (Established mainly for the purpose of providing any service other than professional service) whose original cost price of equipment used for the purpose of business does not exceed Rs. 10 lakhs, with working capital limit upto Rs. 5 lakhs.

(iv) The limit for advances to professional and self-employed persons under the priority sector has been increased in may 1994 to Rs. 5 lakhs (from Rs. 2 lahs) of which not more than Rs. 1 lakh should be for working capital requirements. Moreover, in the case of professionally qualified medical practitioners setting up practice in semi-urban and rural areas, the corresponding limits are Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs respectivelly.

(d) The limit for housing finance under priority sector has been enhanced from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 3 lakhs per housing unit in February, 1997, in respect of both direct and indirect finance.

Warning to tax evaders

736. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given a stern warning to tax-evaders in the country;

(b) if so, whether despite several benefits under the new scheme, the tax evadors are least bothered about new schemes;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to contemplate strict action against tax evaders in the country now; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (d) Direct as well as indirect taxes have been reduced and the Voluntary Disclousre of Income Scheme has been launched with a view to motivating the tax evaders to comply wiht the tax laws. However, the Government deals firmly with tax-evaders and with that in view, some tax laws have been made more stringent.

Banks under purview of RBI

737. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some private sector banks, cooperative banks and such like banks which come within the purview of control of the RBI for ensuring their proper functioning; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) All banks whether in the public sector, private sector or Indian branches of foreign bank—come within the purview of the control of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), and the regulatory framework is provided mainly by the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and partly by RBI Act, 1934. Reserve Bank of India also exercises powers of supervisions under these Acts by way of periodical inspections, calling for off-site returns etc. to ensure proper functioning of these banks.

Fifth Pay Commission Report

738. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJI-RAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for non-implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission Report by Government;